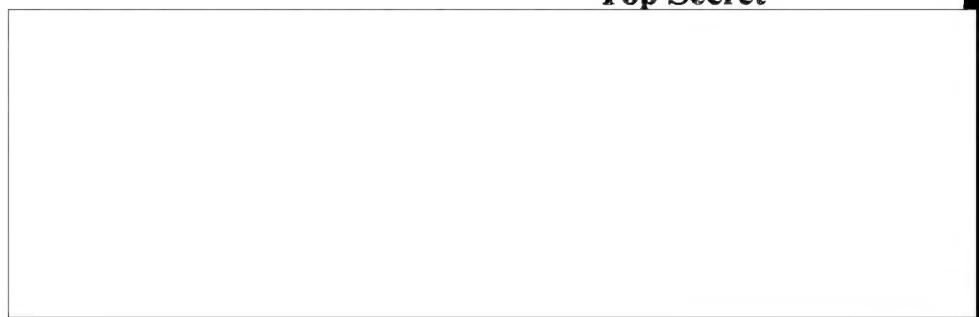




Director of  
Central  
Intelligence

Top Secret



# National Intelligence Daily

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*Friday*  
**12 March 1982**

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CENTRAL AMERICA:

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### Nicaraguan Reaction to US Overflights

On Wednesday, the Foreign Ministry issued a communiqué "vigorously protesting" the overflights of Nicaragua by US reconnaissance aircraft. Most of it, however, consists of a renewal of Managua's offer to negotiate with the US and to sign nonaggression pacts with neighbors. It calls on the US Government to cooperate in reducing tensions in the region and contrasts Washington's "irresponsible attitude" with Nicaragua's "firm determination" to seek peaceful solutions.

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Managua's relatively mild reaction is consistent with its diplomatic and publicity efforts to present a conciliatory, responsible image abroad.

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Comment: The Sandinistas probably hope that such efforts--which also included the recent visit of a high-ranking Nicaraguan official to the US--will influence public opinion against possible US military actions. In addition, Nicaragua may be trying to organize an anti-US bloc in the UN and use the Security Council as a platform to mobilize international opinion against Washington.

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### Activities in Guatemala and Belize

The Guatemalan legislature meets today to verify the election returns. The administration, which controls congress, wants General Guevara declared the winner before noon on Monday, thereby preempting the large demonstration that opposition leaders have scheduled for that evening.

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Discussions reportedly began yesterday between Guevara's forces, the Christian Democrats, and Anzueto's party concerning a possible "Government of National Salvation," which might be expanded to include Maldonado's and even Sandoval's parties.

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the main issues appeared to be "to bring Guevara down from his euphoria and to take care of the professional politicians around him."

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Soviet Commentary

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11 Soviet media are exploiting a US press report on Wednesday of an alleged covert paramilitary plan against Nicaragua in order to step up Soviet attacks on US policy toward Central America. TASS has renewed accusations that the US is trying to form an alliance with South American states against Nicaragua, Cuba, and "Salvadoran patriots." TASS and *Pravda* are praising Nicaragua's "constructive peace initiatives" but are making no reference to President Brezhnev's carefully worded, indirect support on Tuesday for Mexican President Lopez Portillo's proposals. [redacted]

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Comment: Brezhnev had been trying to play up differences between Mexico and the US. Soviet concentration on the report of a US covert operation may account for the absence of any mention of his remarks in the subsequent Soviet commentaries. The Soviets are studiously avoiding any suggestion that they are considering stronger backing for Cuba or Nicaragua. [redacted]

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JORDAN: Concern About West Bank Support

Pressure by Jordan on Arabs who have joined the Village Leagues established by Israel in the occupied West Bank apparently reflects concern that the organizations are undercutting support for Amman in the area.

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The Village Leagues draw their membership from the rural, clan-oriented areas of the West Bank that have traditionally supported King Hussein. Jordanian Prime Minister Badran has warned League officials that they have one month to resign or face treason charges.

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The first two Village Leagues were set up three years ago in rural areas of the West Bank by the Israeli military government there shortly after the Camp David accords were signed. They remained generally inactive until last year, when military government officials began to strengthen and expand the Leagues--there are now five--as a counterweight to the pro-PLO town mayors.

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Officials of the Leagues were given substantial financial powers and control over important local administrative procedures. Some were allowed to carry weapons, and most received protection from Israeli bodyguards.

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Comment: Jordan's action may backfire. The Leagues have not substantially undercut popular support either for Jordan or the PLO in the area, and few West Bankers regard the Leagues as anything more than Israeli fronts. The publicity surrounding Badran's order, however, could give the Leagues a measure of attention that they otherwise would not have received.

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NATO: Outlook for Spanish Entry

1 The West German Bundestag has unanimously endorsed Spanish membership in NATO, and Spain's chances appear to have improved somewhat in other capitals. [redacted]

1 West Germany will join Canada, Norway, Iceland, Luxembourg, and the UK as countries who have ratified Spanish membership. [redacted]

2 In the Netherlands, the cabinet has already approved the application. Conservative leaders have promised to push for accelerated parliamentary action, but the Socialists reportedly may prevent the application from coming to a vote before the NATO summit in June. [redacted]

2 Greek Prime Minister Papandreou recently indicated that Greece is accepting Spain's accession but would not agree to any subsequent NATO command changes in the Aegean. 3 The Foreign Minister told the Spanish that Greece would not be the last country to ratify accession, and Greece recently has lifted its objections to NATO briefings for the Spanish. [redacted]

9 The French cabinet has approved the text of a bill providing for accession. Although the French Government will not make any promises on timing, the US Embassy predicts ratification by the meeting of the NATO Ministers this May. [redacted]

4 Comment: Although these developments are encouraging for Spain, the timing of Dutch and Greek ratification remains in doubt. The Spanish have indicated that they will be willing to attend the ministerial meeting as observers. If they have not become members by the time the summit convenes, however, domestic support for joining NATO may unravel. [redacted]

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SURINAME: Coup Attempt

Dissident military officers opposing the leftist trend of the military leadership launched a coup yesterday, but forces loyal to the government are still resisting. [redacted]

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The group, calling itself the Army of National Liberation, is led by two officers who have been associated with conservative elements of Surinamese society. The rebels have called for the immediate formation of a new civilian government and the holding of elections within six months.

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Although the rebels have control of the Army's main barracks and ammunition depot in Paramaribo, government strongman Army Commander Bouterse and troops loyal to him apparently have taken up a defensive position in the capital's military police camp some 6 kilometers away. Fighting subsided somewhat last night, with both sides claiming to be in control and appealing for support from military troops and citizenry. [redacted]

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Comment: A large number of rank-and-file military, who had objected to Bouterse's leftist policies several months ago, probably will join the dissidents if Bouterse's position weakens further. If the rebel group does not achieve control quickly, however, the advantage could swing back to regime loyalists. Some of Bouterse's more radical supporters may even request aid from Cuba in an attempt to turn the tide. [redacted]

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If successful, the coup's participants probably will attempt to restore constitutional rule. Their effectiveness, however, would be severely limited by their inexperience, pressures from leftist politicians, and the country's growing economic problems. [redacted]

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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: Growing Violence

Sympathizers of Ange Patasse, the main civilian opposition leader, are engaging in mob violence in the north following their unsuccessful coup attempt last week. The northerners are taking revenge against members of President Kolingba's southern tribe for their part in the government's crackdown in Bangui, in which some 40 northerners were killed and 100 wounded. Many soldiers reportedly are deserting the Army. French presidential adviser Penne visited Bangui earlier this week to try to ease tension after Patasse took refuge in the French Embassy.

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Comment: The disturbances could unravel the weak and divided military government. Kolingba's authority appears to be eroding under pressure from fellow tribesmen calling for even harsher measures. If the French stand aside, the situation could become vulnerable to Libyan exploitation. Tripoli, which allegedly supported Patasse's party, would like to see France forced to withdraw the 1,300 troops it maintains in the country.

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COLOMBIA: Local Elections

Legislative and municipal elections will be held on Sunday under tight security because extremist groups are threatening to sabotage the balloting. Security forces, however, believe they can prevent any major violence. The local elections center on personalities rather than issues, and the success of slates headed by the country's leading presidential candidates is one of the few indicators of personal following.

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Comment: The presence of leftist slates in many local races may cause some terrorist groups to focus their major efforts on the presidential election on 30 May. Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, the presidential candidate of the governing Liberal Party, faces a challenge from a dissident leftist who may split the party's traditional majority sufficiently to improve the prospects of the conservative candidate.

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## SPECIAL ANALYSIS

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## WESTERN EUROPE: Evolving Views of Central America

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West European governments and parties are coming closer to agreement about El Salvador, but they are disagreeing more than before about Nicaragua. In neither case, however, do they agree with the US about the primary importance of Soviet and Cuban threats to Central America. With the exception of France, the major governments are trying to limit their public involvement. Socialist parties in Western Europe, acting both individually and within Socialist International, remain the most involved. The leadership of the West German, Spanish, and Portuguese parties is being challenged by the French Socialist Party, which is more oriented toward the Third World.

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The French Government believes that Central America offers opportunities to establish it as a partner of the Third World and to demonstrate its independence of the superpowers. Most other West European governments and parties have little direct interest in El Salvador and Nicaragua, but they are deeply concerned that the US may become involved militarily.

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The West Europeans fear that such involvement would divert US political, economic, and military resources from NATO and the East-West issues, which they consider more important, while further encouraging the growing opposition in Western Europe to US-led Alliance policies. At the same time, they doubt that military action would have a stabilizing effect in Central America.

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Some Socialist parties, including the West German Social Democratic Party, hope to avert any US military intervention by supporting the establishment of moderate regimes acceptable to the US. At a minimum, West European governments and parties want to disassociate themselves from a US policy that is widely unpopular among their constituents.

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Most West European political leaders welcome the Caribbean Basin initiative because they believe that it recognizes that economic and social problems--rather

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than just Soviet and Cuban intrigue--are the root cause of instability in Central America. They continue to fear, however, that the US does not put enough emphasis on these problems. Many also insist that the initiative must be accompanied by at least an attempt at dialogue with Cuba and Nicaragua to help calm tensions in the region.

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#### Attitudes Toward El Salvador

The violence in El Salvador has increased West European opposition to the junta and virtually silenced its supporters. On the other hand, the opposition's stock is rising.

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West European expectations for the coming elections are uniformly low. Among the West European governments, only the UK is sending election observers.

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The West European Socialist parties have opposed elections before negotiation in El Salvador and refuse to send observers. They argue that the elections at best will be meaningless and at worst will lead to further polarization.

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The two major groupings of European conservative and Christian Democratic parties will send observers.

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#### Attitudes Toward Nicaragua

Public debate about Nicaragua is under way among the parties of Socialist International. After initially welcoming the rise of the Sandinistas, many moderate West European Socialists have become concerned about their repressive policies, ties to Cuba, military buildup, and support for insurrections elsewhere in Central America. Some oppose French arms shipments to the regime.

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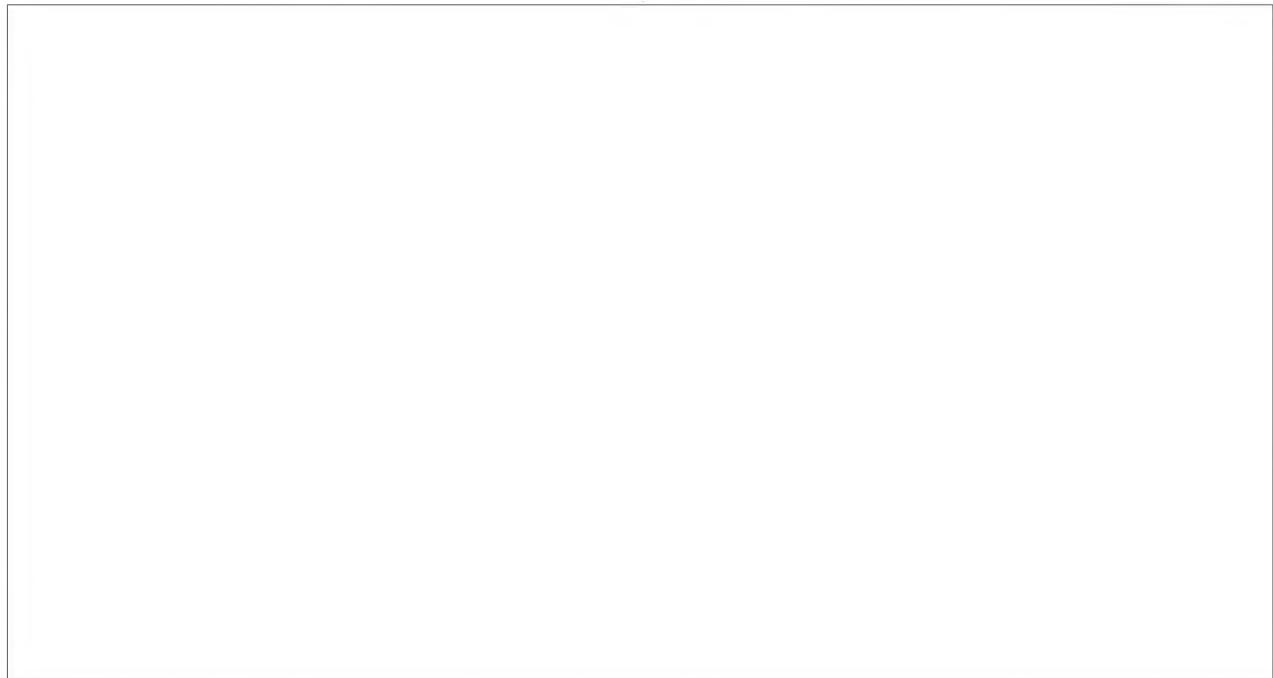
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The West European Socialists may compromise on supporting Mexican mediation of the Central American conflict. The belief of the French that they have a special relationship with Mexico gives them particular reason to endorse a Mexican role. Gonzalez evidently approves of President Lopez Portillo's suggestion for a series of Nicaraguan nonaggression pacts with its neighbors and with the US, and a recent UK parliamentary delegation to Central America endorsed a mediating role for Lopez Portillo, if not the specifics of his program.

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Most West Europeans agree with Lopez Portillo in attributing much of the radicalization in Nicaragua to the Sandinista perception of a military threat from the US or from US-backed guerrillas. Even those who fear that the evolution of the Sandinista government has deeper roots, or that it has gone too far to be reversed simply by removing the military threat, would support Lopez Portillo's initiative. They believe that it would at least help to reduce international tension in the region and tend to encourage the development of a more moderate regime.

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